

CLAIMS

1. A protective film for polarizing plates which comprises a thermoplastic film having a photoelastic coefficient of $9.0 \times 10^{-12} \text{ Pa}^{-1}$ or smaller and a saturated water absorption smaller than 0.05% by weight and an antireflection layer formed by alternately laminating high refractivity layers and low refractivity layers at least on one face of the thermoplastic film and having a reflectance of 0.5% or smaller at a wavelength of 550 nm and has a standard deviation of S of 0.3 or smaller, wherein the standard deviation of S is obtained by obtaining a reflectance $R(\lambda)$ at a wavelength λ in a region of wavelength of 380 to 780 nm while the wavelength λ is successively increased by an increment of 1 nm from 380 nm to 780 nm, calculating S in accordance with relation (1):

$$S = \sum_{\lambda=380}^{780} \Delta\lambda \cdot R(\lambda) \quad \dots (1)$$

which gives a sum of products of the reflectance $R(\lambda)$ at a wavelength of λ and the increment of the wavelength between two successive measurements of the reflectance $\Delta\lambda$ ($=1 \text{ nm}$), and calculating the standard deviation of S obtained at 10 points randomly selected within an area of 100 cm^2 on a surface of the film.

2. A protective film for polarizing plates according to Claim 1, wherein the antireflection layer is a layer formed at least on one face of the thermoplastic film while the thermoplastic film is brought into contact with a thermally conductive material having a surface temperature higher than [a glass transition temperature of the thermoplastic film - 130°C]

and lower than the glass transition temperature of the thermoplastic film.

3. A protective film for polarizing plates according to Claims 1 or 2,
wherein the antireflection layer is a layer formed in accordance with a
5 physical vapor deposition process or a chemical vapor deposition process.

4. A protective film for polarizing plates according to any one of Claims 1
to 3, which further comprises at least one hard coat layer.

10 5. A protective film for polarizing plates according to Claim 4, wherein
the hard coat layer has an average surface roughness of $0.5\ \mu\text{m}$ or smaller.

6. A protective film for polarizing plates according to any one of Claims 1
to 5, wherein an outermost surface of the thermoplastic film at a side
15 having the antireflection layer has an electric resistance of $1 \times 10^9\ \Omega/\square$ or
smaller.

7. A protective film for polarizing plates according to any one of Claims 1
to 6, wherein the thermoplastic film is a film comprising a polymer having
20 an alicyclic structure.